



TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - AUGUST

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus



The Mass Flight of 1944

Eighty years have passed since the Estonian people's destiny took a drastic turn. The Soviet Union seized control of the country, subjecting it to a 50-year occupation until the last Soviet army troops left in 1994. Around 80,000 Estonian citizens were uprooted from their homes, fleeing the imminent Soviet occupation. They became displaced persons and refugees avoiding facing the grim alternatives of death, imprisonment, or exile in the Siberian Gulag. They left their homes and loved ones behind forever. Many fled by small and large boats across the sea, and by any available means of transportation. This is now known as the Mass Flight of 1944 (Suurpõgenemine 1944). Thousands perished in this desperate flight westward.

**“MINNA EI TAHA,
KUID JÄÄDA EI SAA”
“DO NOT WANT TO GO,
BUT CANNOT STAY”**



In memory of this life-altering choice and the harrowing journey tens of thousands made, the Estonian World Council commissioned a memorial sculpture by Estonian artist Elo Liiv which is scheduled to open in Pärnu on September 21st. Dedicated to all Estonians who suffered due to the Mass Flight, the sculpture

will be erected on the banks of the Pärnu River, next to a bridge where thousands of ships departed, on land donated by the Pärnu City Government. Deeply symbolic and emotional, the sculpture is called “the touch” and depicts the moment of farewell – when fingers of the departing still touch those of the ones left behind. Longing is in the fingertips and hearts and it's the final moment of togetherness. In the palm, both small and large ships can be seen.

The St. Peter's and Vana Andres congregations, will be commemorating the Mass Flight on September 22nd with a combined service at St. Peters.



By Unknown author - John Chrispinsson: Den glömda historien: Om svenska öden och äventyr i öster under tusen år. Stockholm 2011., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=23777031>

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www.youtube.com/@eelktorontopeetri
[kogudus8966](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kogudus8966)



www.stpeterstoronto.estonianchurch.ca



www.facebook.com/Toronto.St.Peters

Kantselei Tunnid/Office Hours

Teisipäeval/Tues. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Kolmapäeval/Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Neljapäeval/Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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Please donate to secure the future of St. Peter's – cash, cheques, and e-mail transfers accepted at stpeterstoronto@rogers.com

UUDISED / NEWS

June 23 Church Service (Võidupüha/Jaanipäev)

An Estonian service was held by Intern Pastor Karl Paju with organist Erik Kreem.



Enhancing the service were the beautiful voices of our women's ensemble.



Flowers were given to the ensemble conductor Heidi Laikve Kuus and organist/pianist Erik Kreem.



The service was followed by a luncheon organized by Aida Shelton and helpers during which congregation members got to meet Karl Paju.



Thank you to our video taping and audio crew Marika Kull, Taino Mölder, Margus Jukkum, and Allan Meusi.



June 25th - Service at Ehatare

Karl was welcomed by residents at Eesti Kodu. He then held a service for Ehatare residents.

God willing, Karl will be returning in September to begin his Masters studies in theology at Wycliffe College and doing services for St. Peter's.



June 27th - Concert at St. Peters

St. Peter's was honoured to host visting choir "Tartu Rahvaülikooli Segakoor" as they presented their concert "Kaugelt kodumaalt" under the direction of Lauri Breede.



The church hosted a welcome dinner for the choir after their initial gathering and practice.



After a welcome greeting by Chair Väino Einola and a prayer by Karl Paju, conductor Lauri Breede provided educational introductions to each of the songs performed at the concert which included a wide repertoire of songwriters.





Works were performed acapella or accompanied by Lauri Breede on piano or Asko Serba on guitar. The church's fabulous acoustics added to the heartwarming rendition of "Ta lendab mesipuu poole" and was met with a standing ovation.

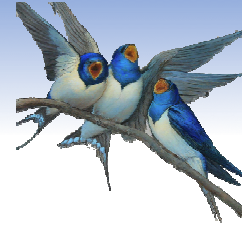
Anne Liis Keelmann thanked the choir for coming and presented them with flowers. The concert ended with everyone joining in the singing of "Mu isamaa on minu arm".



Psalm 66, 8-10 -

"Issand Jeesus, tee minust midagi oma nime auks. Olgu ma savi, mida sina vormid, nõu, mida sina täidad oma andidega, tööriist, mida sina kasutad, tempel, kus sina elad. Mina olen nõder ja täiesti kõlbmatu, tee sina mind kõlblikuks oma tööle. Mina olen patune, ole sina minu õigus. Aita mind, Issand Jeesus, olla kasulik liige sinu koguduses, lase mind ka tänasel päeval midagi sinule teha. Hoi mind oma osaduses ühes nendega, kes sulle ustavad on, ja ühenda meid kõiki armastuses sinu vastu ja sinu nime kiituseks igavesti. Amen."

Roos, Väike Palveraamat.



Do you like to sing?

Inviting all interested to join
the St. Peter's and Vana Andres' Joint Choir.

The choir will be performing on September 22nd at St. Peter's for the 80th Anniversary of the 1944 Mass Flight (Suurpõgenemine) commemoration combined church service.

Practices will be held in September.

Contact Anne Keelmann at akeelmann@rogers.com

if you are interested in joining the group.



Heljo Puldre

9. aprill, 1930 - 10. juuli, 2024



Mälestame kauaaegset Naisringi liiget.

Üks tee sai lõpuni käidud, üks süda on vaikinud.
Puhka rahu kallid Heljo.

Petri koguduse Guildi Ring.



A legacy gift is a financial gift to a charity that you leave in your will. Legacy gifts play a key role in supporting charitable organizations like St. Peter's and we ask that you kindly consider doing so.

Leaving a larger legacy - Legacy giving doesn't affect your income today. This allows you to leave a more substantial gift than otherwise may be possible in your lifetime.

Tax benefits - The Canadian government has created valuable tax incentives to encourage Canadians to leave legacy gifts. When you leave a legacy gift through your will, your estate receives a tax credit for the full value of the gift which adds a tax credit to your final income tax return. This can help to maximize the value of your residual estate for your beneficiaries.

Inspiring others - Your gift might also cause others to think about their own philanthropic goals. Maybe you'll inspire somebody to give back as well! Legacy giving is a way to leave a legacy of generosity and make a cause you care about an important part of your life story. Supporting St. Peter's with a legacy gift helps us to continue the work of our forefathers.

While legacy giving makes it possible to leave much larger gifts than otherwise possible, it's important to remember that you don't have to be wealthy to leave a legacy gift. You can leave as much or as little as you want – there is no gift too small to make an impact. Together, a little becomes a lot. It only takes a few minutes to leave a gift to charity, but it creates a legacy that lives on forever.

St. Peter's Giving Tree Donations to honour your loved-one

Would you like to honour your loved one, or celebrate a special event like a birthday? For \$1000 or more you, can purchase an engraved leaf to be placed on our Giving Tree (Annetuspuu).

The next time you are at the church, take a moment to look at the back of the sanctuary to see the names of individuals that have been memorialized.



Legacy Gifts to St. Peter's this Month

Heljo Puldre (April 9th, 1930 - July 10, 2024).
Arthur Mets (Passed on May 31, 2024).

With heartfelt gratitude for their remembrance of St. Peter's, we thank the above legacy gift donors. Through support such as this, we are able to provide a place of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth for our members. These donations are not just financial support, they represent a shared commitment to ensure our continued future in serving God.



Issand Jumal, Sina oled elu allikas. Sinus me elame, liigume ja oleme. Hoia meid oma armastusega nii elus kui surmas ja lase meid Sinu armu vael jõuda Sinu riiki. Aamen.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Announcement

After 20 years of diligent service, St. Peter's wants to thank Bishop Michael Pryse for his dedication and wise, compassionate leadership. We wish him a blessed retirement.



On June 22nd, Rev. Carla Blakley was elected to serve as next Bishop and leader of the Eastern Synod. The election came on the fifth ballot for synod bishop.

Addressing delegates following the announcement of the election, Blakley offered words of gratitude and hope for the future of ministry in the Eastern Synod.

Ordained in 1995, Rev. Blakley most recently served as Senior Pastor to Lakeview United Lutheran Partnership. From 2017-2021 she was the Director of Community Engagement and Fundraising and Communication for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Winnipeg. She has served several congregations in Saskatchewan.

She describes herself as a compassionate, passionate and empathetic leader and explains that her leadership style as collaborative, as a bridge builder and people gatherer.

St. Peter's congratulate the bishop-elect and wishes her many blessings. We look forward to working together with her in serving God.

Source: <https://easternsynod.org/candidate-carlablakley/>

Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce that we have received an Order from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice regarding our request regarding notification of our next Annual Meeting for those for whom we have no contact information, and quorum requirements. We are working to follow the Court Order and will be announcing the date for our AGM as directed by the Court. Notice of the AGM will be published in a newspaper with general circulation in Toronto, the Estonian newspapers Eesti Elu and Estonian Life in print and digital form; and in the digital form of the Estonian World Review website.

Notice of the AGM will also be mailed to those for whom we have addresses, or emailed to those who have given their email information. The meeting will also be announced on Facebook and on our website.



Do we have your correct contact information?

If you or your children have recently moved, have a new telephone number, etc., please contact the church office so that we may update our records.

Did you know that sin burn can be prevented by son screen?

CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALA-TEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED*

*New events may be added to the calendar—please check our church website for any additions.

www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar

Summer Break

Note that there will be no regularly scheduled English-language or Estonian services during the months of July and August.

Aug. 7 - Wednesday - Guild meeting in the Guild room at 12:00 noon. Bring your recipes and samples for updating the cookbook!

Aug. 14th - Wednesday - Ehatare Foundation Event at St. Peter's at 1:00 p.m. Computer and tablet workshop. Bring your cell phones and/or tablets!

Sept - Karl Paju returns to Toronto at the beginning of the month.

Sept. 22 - Combined service with Vana Andres congregation at St. Peter's to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Great Escape. Singing will be the combined St. Peter's and Vana Andres choir. A luncheon will be served after the service. Please register your attendance with the church office at 416-483-5847 or stpeterstoronto@rogers.com

Annual General Meeting - The date to be announced shortly.

Tulge osalema!

Lõbusa Pärastlõuna Suvepidu



Tervislik toit ja liikumine teeb head

10. aug, 2024, kl 13
uksed avatud 12.30

Eesti Kodu
50 Old Kingston Rd

Sissepääs \$15

RSVP 2. aug. M. Mölder
tel 416 421 3812



An archeologist, a pastor, and an entomologist were discussing the ongoing search for Noah's ark.



"I have faith that we will find it one day," opined the pastor.

"I agree," said the archeologist, "but you need my scientific skill and expertise."

"You're both wrong," sniffed the entomologist. "I can guarantee that the ark will never be found."

"How can you be so sure?" asked the other two.

"Well, if it's true Noah included two of every critter, then the termites have taken care of the evidence," replied the entomologist.

ARVUTI, TAHVELARVUTI JA MOBIILI TÖÖTUBA

Kolmapäeval, 14. augustil kl 13

Petri kirikus, 817 Mount Pleasant Rd

On sul algaja küsimusi sülearvuti, mobiili või tahvelarvuti kohta? Võta kaasa.

Vabatahtlik annetus. Palun registreeruda 9. augustiks
647 799 1910 või info@ehatarefoundation.ca



The pastor was delighted to be able to perform a couple's upcoming wedding. "Let's plan on meeting five or six times for the premarital counseling," the pastor said. "Oh, we don't need premarital counseling," the bride said dismissively. "We know everything there is to know about marriage." "Yeah," the groom agreed. "We've both been married twice before."

